



## Celebrate The Week of the Young Child

### *"Children's Opportunities--Our Responsibilities"*

A young child's interactions with parents and caregivers have the potential to shape and promote that child's development for future success in school and in life. **The Week of the Young Child**, held April 18 – 24, is an annual observance that focuses public attention on the needs of young children and their families and recognizes the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

One of the most important decisions many parents will ever make is choosing quality care for their child. Recognizing the critical link between quality child care and the optimal development of its youngest citizens, North Carolina implemented the five star rated license for child care facilities in 1999. If you are a parent looking for child care, the NC Division of Child Development can assist you through our [Facility Search Site](#). Be sure to look at the **Resources** listed on this page. They can help you understand the Star Rated License and will guide you in identifying **quality** care as you visit child care facilities to find a good match for your child.

To learn more about how you can observe **The Week of the Young Child**, go to [http://www.naeyc.org/woyc/guide/woyc\\_about.htm](http://www.naeyc.org/woyc/guide/woyc_about.htm).

### Important Links

Remember that every child is special and unique and deserves the best start possible. Research tells us that a child's brain develops dramatically in the early years of life. For more specific information on **early brain development**, go to <http://zerotothree.org/brainwonders/index.html>.

For information about **your child's development from birth through age five**, go to the Parent Page on the NC Smart Start web site at <http://www.ncsmartstart.org>.

For a detailed listing of many web sites and publications on **brain development in infants and toddlers** that contain information for both parents and providers, go to: <http://www.nccic.org/cctopics/brain.html>.

For more information on **health and safety issues** for your children or for the children in your care, such as car seats, product safety and injury prevention, go the American Academy of Pediatrics at <http://www.aap.org>. Click on the link for "You and Your Family" on the top right-hand side of the page.